

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the foregoing amendments to the claims and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 23-29 are pending in this application. Claims 1-22 and 30 have been canceled. The Examiner has indicated that claims 23-28 are allowed.

Claims 13-19, 21 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heller et al. (WO 199323748) in view of Ohashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,565,329). The rejected claims have been canceled; thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Claims 29 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 30 has been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection as to this claim moot. Claim 29 stands rejected because the Examiner finds the claim incomplete in that it lacks the comparative. The Examiner suggested amending the claim to recite --freshness and-- after "between". The claim has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Accordingly, the rejection is overcome and the rejection should be withdrawn.

By the amendments herein, the rejections are overcome and the application is in condition for allowance. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the claims 22-29 are patentable over the teachings of the prior art relied upon by the Examiner. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of

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the claims is requested in light of the preceding amendments and remarks. Allowance of the claims is courteously solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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